

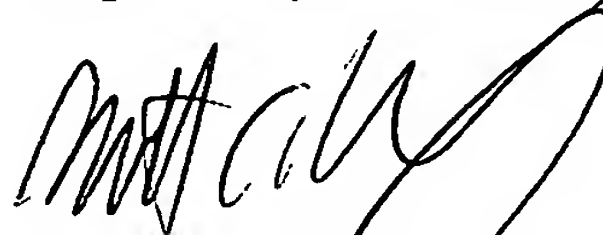
REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Actions of May 17, 2004, and October 29, 2004. In particular, the Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and that Claims 20-33 are allowed.

In response to the Official Action, the Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include all recitations of Claim 5 (indicated allowable); amended dependent Claim 5 to depend from Claim 14; amended dependent Claim 6 to depend from Claim 1; rewritten Claim 8 in independent form (indicated allowable); rewritten Claim 11 in independent form (indicated allowable); rewritten Claim 14 in independent form (indicated allowable); and rewritten Claim 16 in independent form (indicated allowable). Accordingly, each of Claims 1, 8, 11, 14, and 16 has been placed in a condition indicated allowable in the Office Action of October 29, 2004, and each of Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15, 17-19 depends from an allowable claim.

The Applicants thus submit that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if any additional issues should need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

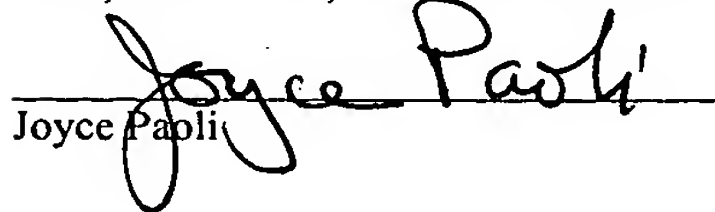


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Joyce Paoli